

No. XXXVI.—NOTES ON THE FLYING LIZARD (*DRACO MACULATUS*).

Whilst hunting for specimens amongst the trees in the P. & O. Company's compound at Singapore on the 26th of June at 11 A.M. I saw two small brown lizards basking in the sun on the trunk of a large tree. I give the time, because they are mostly seen between 11 A.M. and 2 P.M., when the sun is strong, for the rest of the day keeping to the upper parts of the trees out of sight.

On closer inspection I found they had "wings," which were spread out; but they were absolutely motionless. I also found that they were a pair. Not having anything to catch them with I hurried back to my ship and got my butterfly net and ran back again to the same place expecting they would have vanished, but they had not; they were still in the same place. I made a dash at the lower of the two lizards, knocked it off the tree, caught it in the net and transferred it to a tin box without hurting it in any way. I then looked for its mate, but he had disappeared high up into the uppermost branches and I did not see him again. I made my way back highly delighted with having caught even one and got the carpenter to knock me up a box with a glass cover, into which I placed my lizard with some earth and dried twigs, also some small grasshoppers as food. I am not certain if she ate these, but anyway they were gone the next morning, perhaps through the holes which were bored in the box for air. However day after day I tried her with flies and small cockroaches, and once with a butterfly which had lost its way and flown on board in mid-ocean; but even this did not tempt her, and she did not eat anything all the time I had her and did not seem much the worse for it.

The colour of this lizard was brown and grey, with black spots, one black spot between the eyes and one on the back of the neck. Then 7 double black and yellow spots along the back which merged into rings along the tail. On the wings were lines of brown black spots with yellowish wavy lines in between. The throat underneath was grey with a tinge of blue green, and mottled with black. "The male has yellow under the throat and a small crest on the back of its neck." The "wings" extended from behind the forelegs to the forepart of the hind legs and were in the form of a parachute, just skin with 6 or 7 long ribs passing through to strengthen them and for expanding and closing them. After being confined in the box it seldom opened its "wings" but kept them folded at its sides. These wings are used as a parachute when jumping from branch to branch which they do so quickly they are hardly to be seen. This lizard is quite harmless, but it certainly looked very fierce when I attempted to handle it, opening its mouth very wide and making faces at me. A Malay who saw me catch it told me that it was poisonous and he evidently believed it was. The whole body is covered with scales but they are very small. This lizard is only found in the Malay Peninsular, Sumatra, Java and Borneo and is different to the flying lizard of India. The day after the capture of the lizard it scraped a little hole in the earth at the bottom of the box and laid three little oval white eggs with a soft skin, then left them exposed and has never been near them since except to jump on them in her excitement or anger when being looked at. Jumping on the eggs dented them in, but after a few hours they always resumed their proper shape again. The eggs when laid were just under half an inch long, but on the ninth day I discovered that they were growing longer and more rounded in the middle. I have kept the earth fairly damp the whole time so that the eggs should have a little moisture.

The first morning after the lizard was on board I found the box full of

ants, so after turning them out I painted a line of Stockholm tar round the outside of the box, and this kept them out alright until we arrived in Bombay, when I handed the lizard and her eggs over to the Society's Museum. I shall be much interested in hearing if they hatch out but the sea air, I am afraid, may have been too much for them.

F. H. S. STONE.

BOMBAY, 9th July 1913.

[Unfortunately the lizard died shortly after it arrived, and the two eggs shrivelled up.—N. B. K.]

NO. XXXVII.—THE CONTENTS OF A MARSH CROCODILE'S
(*CROCODILUS PALUSTRIS*) STOMACH.

On the morning of 28th April 1913, I shot a 9 feet Crocodile in the River Weinganga, Central Provinces, and on examining the contents of its stomach, I found a fair sized pig, in portions, but still undigested, a pair of metal bracelets and a leaden ball of about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter.

C. R. PITMAN.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 7th August 1913.

NO. XXXVIII.—MARSH CROCODILE (*CROCODILUS PALUSTRIS*)
KILLING A PANTHER (*FELIS PARDUS*).

While in camp on the banks of the River Weinganga in the Central Provinces some villagers one day, the 27th of March, brought me a half-grown panther measuring about 5'-6" that they had picked up dead near the river and which from the nature of the wounds on it had undoubtedly been killed by a crocodile.

C. R. PITMAN.

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 7th August 1913.

[Sir E. Tennant in the Natural History of Ceylon gives an amusing account of a panther falling a victim to an Esturine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)—EDS.]

NO. XXXIX.—NOTE ON THE LIFE-HISTORY OF A PHASMID.
(WITH A PLATE.)

There is very little on record regarding the life-history and habits of Indian Phasmidæ; perhaps the only insect of the group about which something is known is *Phyllium scythe*. As such, it is believed that this short note on the life-history of one of these insects, however incomplete, will contribute a little to our knowledge of this little-known but interesting group of Orthoptera.

On the 18th September 1912, by mere chance, I came across a group of eggs deposited on a wooden rafter in the roof of a shed up the hills (2,000 feet) a few miles west of the Coimbatore Agricultural College. When first observed, I had not the remotest idea that these were Phasmid eggs; they were merely taken for the eggs of some Rhynchotid, and it was only when the nymphs emerged a few days later that their true identity became evident. The reason for mistaking their true nature is due to the fact that most of the Phasmids known and described in books are known to simply drop their eggs singly on to the soil together with their excrement.

The eggs.—The eggs are hard and seed like; they were found arranged on the wooden rafter in two parallel rows. They were cemented to the